



D O L G E L L A U   U R B A N   D I S T R I C T  
C O U N C I L

A N N U A L  
H E A L T H   R E P O R T  
F O R   T H E   Y E A R  
1966

DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

Hugh Francis, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

William Roy Smith, C.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.



ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st 1966

To: The Chairman and Members of the Dolgellau Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Jenkins and Gentlemen.

I have the honour to submit the Annual Health Report for the year ended December 31st 1966.

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year population was 2,620 (70 more than in 1965). There were 37 live births (3 more than the previous year) and 26 deaths (24 in 1965). There were no stillbirths, no maternal deaths and no infant died in its first year. 13 of the 26 deaths were from heart diseases, strokes and other circulatory diseases. This is the same as in the country generally.

Two new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified. There was no death from tuberculosis.

The table below give a comparison with the previous five years.

	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961
Population	2,620	2,550	2,490	2,460	2,470	2,267 census
Live Births	37	34	29	37	37	30
Live Birth rate per 1,000 population	14.1	13.33	11.65	15.04	14.98	12.10
Stillbirths	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	1	1
Infant deaths	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	1	1
Maternity deaths	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
Total deaths	26	24	42	36	41	30
T.B. new cases	2	Nil	4	2	2	Nil
T.B. deaths	Nil	Nil	1	1	Nil	Nil
Deaths from cancer	4	4	8	5	6	Nil

Below are some of the figures for the Annual Report for 1916, 50 years from 1966. This was of course an unusual year but the figures may be of interest.

From the Annual Report for 1916

Population of Merioneth 40,432  
Population of Dolgellau (estimated) 1,836  
Number of live births 40  
Live birth rate per 1,000 population 20.02  
Infant mortality number of deaths under 1 year (25 per 1,000 births)

Causes of Death

Influenza	2	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	5	
Cancer, malignant disease	6	
Organic Hear disease	8	
Bronchitis	3	
Pneumonia (all forms)	6	
Other respiratory disease	1	
Nephritis and Bright's disease	2	
Violence, apart from suicide	1	
Other defined diseases	5	
	<u>39</u>	Death Rate per 1,000 population 21.24

I wish to thank the Public Health Inspector, Mr. W. R. Smith, the Clerk, Mr. Evan Williams, and all the other officials for their valued assistance during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

H. FRANCIS  
M.B.,Ch.B.,D.P.H.

District Medical Officer of Health.

# GENERAL STATISTICS, 1966

Area of DOIGELLAU URBAN DISTRICT	-	1,127 acres
Rateable Value	-	£67,052
Population (Registrar General's figure)	-	2,620
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	-	£252
Number of inhabited houses (according to the Rate Book) at the end of the year.	-	794

## VITAL STATISTICS

Comparability Factors -

Births .. .. .	1.08
Deaths .. .. .	0.96

MALES

FEMALES

## BIRTHS

### LIVE BIRTHS

Total .. .. .	21	16
Legitimate .. .. .	20	13
Illegitimate .. .. .	1	3

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	- 14.1
1965 figures	- 13.33
Illegitimate Live Births per 1,000 population	- 1.14

### STILL BIRTHS

Total .. .. .	-	-
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Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population	- Nil
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	- Nil

### TOTAL BIRTHS (Live and Still)

Live .. .. .	21	16
Still .. .. .	-	-

## DEATHS

### DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR

Total .. .. .	-	-
Legitimate .. .. .	-	-
Illegitimate .. .. .	-	-


Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	- Nil
1965 figures	- 29.41
Deaths of Legitimate Infants Mortality per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	- Nil
Deaths of Illegitimate Infants Mortality per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	- Nil

### DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS

Total .. .. .	-	-
Legitimate .. .. .	-	-
Illegitimate .. .. .	-	-

### DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 WEEK

Total .. .. .	-	-
Legitimate .. .. .	-	-
Illegitimate .. .. .	-	-



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Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	- Nil
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	- Nil
Perinatal Mortality Rate	- Nil

#### MATERNAL DEATHS (including abortion)

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Still Births	- Nil
1965 figures	- Nil

<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Total number .. .. .	11	15
Rate per 1,000 population	- 10	
1965 figures	- 9.41	

#### DEATHS FROM CANCER

Total number .. .. .	4
Rate per 1,000 population	- 1.12
1965 figures	- 1.57

#### DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS

Total number .. .. .	-
Rate per 1,000 population	- Nil
1965 figures	- Nil

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

##### 1. Public Health Officers of the Authority

One Medical Officer of Health  
One Public Health Inspector and Surveyor

##### 2. Laboratory Facilities

Milk and Water Samples examined at the Public Health Laboratories at Conway and Shrewsbury.

##### 3. Ambulance Facilities

Five drivers and four vehicles full time.  
One sitting case car.

##### 4. Infant Welfare Clinics

Held twice monthly, first and third Monday at Ebenezer (Wesleyan) Chapel Vestry.

##### 5. Ante Natal Clinics

Held twice monthly, first and third Monday at Dolgellau Hospital.

##### 6. Orthopaedic Clinic

At Dolgellau Hospital on the second Thursday of each month.  
After care Clinic on the fourth Thursday of each month.

##### 7. Tuberculosis Clinic

Held at the Dolgellau Hospital on the first and third Thursday. Mass Radiography Unit attends approximately monthly on Fridays on dates advertised.

##### 8. Immunisation

Immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus and Poliomyelitis and Vaccination against Smallpox carried out in Infant Welfare Centre and General Practitioners Surgeries. The School Medical Officer also immunizes at the Health Department, Lombard Street, Dolgellau.





## 9. Hospitals

One hospital at Dolgellau.

## 10. Infectious Diseases

Total number of infectious diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year:-

Scarlet Fever	}	- Nil
Bacillary Dysentery		
Whooping Cough		
Measles		
Infantile Paralysis		
Pneumonia		

## TUBERCULOSIS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>NEW CASES</u> <u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Pulmonary	2	1	1
Non-Pulmonary	-	-	-

## TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS

Pulmonary	-	-	-
Non-Pulmonary	-	-	-

## TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1966 in age groups

Age Periods	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
2								
3								
5								
10								
15								
20								
25								
35								
45		1						
55								
65	1							
75								
Total	1	1						



# CAUSES OF DEATH 1966

							<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Tuberculosis Pulmonary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
Tuberculosis, other. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
Syphilitic disease.. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
Other infective and parasitic disease .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
Cancer Stomach. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
" Bronchus .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	-
" Breast.. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
" Uterus.. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
" Other sites.. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	2
Leukaemia, aleukaemia .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
Diabetes.. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
Coronary disease, angina. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1
Hypertension with heart disease .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1
Other heart diseases .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1
Other circulatory disease .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
Influenza. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
Pneumonia. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1
Bronchitis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis.. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
Congenital malformations. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1
Motor vehicle accidents.. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
Suicide .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
Other diseases of respiratory system .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
All other accidents. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	-

## FOOD HYGIENE

During the year supervision and advise was given to food handlers generally.

Number of prosecutions ... Nil



HOUSING

SLUM CLEARANCE

Further progress still has been made during the year in the clearing of certain sub-standard property and I am pleased to report that most of the houses let during the period went to tenants of unfit accommodation. Appropriate housing act action was taken in each case. In addition, steps were taken to clear the unfit property acquired by the Council in the South Street area.

DEVELOPMENT AREAS

The Sarn Road and South Street Rede velopment Scheme, the initial stage of which was commenced in 1963, was proceeded with.

The Arran Road Development Scheme was completed and the 10 flats erected.

COUNCIL HOUSE BUILDING

Major progress in this field was made during the year.

10 flats at Arran Road were completed and occupied.

10 bungalows at Felin Ucha' and 64 houses at Penycaeau were commenced during the year and excellent progress was made upon them.

The bungalows were of particular interest as they are the first to be built by a local authority in Merioneth by completely industrialised methods and will provide quickly erected houses for elderley people of high quality and at comparitively low cost.

OVERCROWDING

There were no cases of legal overcrowding within the district.

PRIVATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

House building in the private sector has continued at a most encouraging level..

All but three sites on the Goed y Fronallt estate were completed during the year and all the houses at the Maesbrith site were completed and occupied by the end of the period. There is room for four additional dwellings on this site and I have high hopes that a local contractor will acquire and develop in order to satisfactorily complete what will be a most pleasant estate.

Further private dwellings were commenced at Penyc oed, Penybryn, Maescaled and Frondirion while outline planning permission was ob tained for two further sites at Fronallt and Ffridd Llwyn.

The interest and demand for houses in Dolgellau continued at a very high level and there is every sign that if present progress can be maintained the population decline that has been so marked for the last decades can be reversed before the end of the 60's.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Two applications for Discretionary Grants were received and approved during the year.

Six grant aided schemes, three discretionary and three standard were completed during the year.

Five grant aided schemes were received and approved but not paid in 1967.

The total number of improvement schemes completed now amount to 61.



## ACTION TAKEN UNDER THE HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

No clearance areas were declared during the year.

## UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED

After informal action by local authority ... ..	15
After notice under (a) Public Health Act ... ..	2
After notice under (b) Section 9 and 16 Housing Act. ... ..	Nil

## HOUSING MANAGEMENT

The Council employ direct labour for the carrying out of maintenance and repairs to Council houses.

Again the pace of repair work has been stepped up in an effort to clear the back log of repairs. Considerable progress has been made though I think it is inevitable that extra staff will have to be taken on before we can really say that we are in complete control of the situation.

## STREET CLEANSING

Cleansing of trunk and classified roads is carried out by the County Highways Authority, whilst the unclassified roads are attended to by this Authority. Every opportunity is taken to remind the public of the necessity to keep the Town "litter free" and litter bins have been provided in various parts of the Town.

## PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Conveniences are provided for both sexes at the Caemarian Recreation Park and also at the Free Library.

A male and female part-time daily attendants are employed to clean the Public Conveniences. Paper hand towel machines are available at the conveniences.

## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

There has been no change in the system during the year and the sewer discharges into the sea outfall.

The sewers were regularly inspected and flushed once monthly. Test baiting for rodent infestation was carried out during the year.

The sewerage report prepared by Messrs. C. D. C. Braine and Partners has unfortunately not yet been completed due to the considerable extra ground work required. I hope to be able to report on the Survey and recommendations in the next annual report.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT - MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION AND FOOD HYGIENE

The private slaughterhouse facilities at Arran Road continued to be in considerable use throughout the year, but the premises fall short of the required structural standards and efforts were made to bring about the improvement necessary.

The Meat Inspection Regulations have placed a heavy additional load for the Officers responsible. The work is being carried out and 100% inspection is being maintained, though this is necessitating working out of normal hours and at the sacrifice of certain other duties.

The high quality of the home produced meat was again evident.

The total number of animals slaughtered during the year is as follows:-

CATTLE	CALVES	SHEEP AND LAMBS	PIGS	TOTAL
80	-	2701	115	2896



INCIDENCE OF DISEASE IN ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND INSPECTED

TUBERCULOSIS - One case of avian tuberculosis in a pig was found during post mortem inspection.

DISEASE OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS

	<u>Total killed</u>	<u>Carcasses condemned</u>	<u>Part carcasses or organ condemned</u>	<u>Percentage of animals infected</u>
Sheep ...	2701	-	65	2.44%
Pigs ...	115	-	12	10.43%
Calves ...	-	-	-	38.75%
Cattle ...	80	-	31	

CARCASSES OR ORGANS CONDEMNED

	<u>Disease or condition</u>
2 sheep carcasses	- Emaciation and Odema . . .
61 sheep livers and lungs	- Parasitic
2 sheep heads	- Coenurus cerebralis
7 pig livers	- Parasitic
2 pigs flanks and belly	- Severe inflammation
2 pigs hindquarters	- Severe bruising
1 pig head	- Tuberculosis
3 ox hind quarters	- Bone-taint
28 ox livers	- Distoma hepaticum

FOOD INSPECTION IN SHOPS

The following food was surrendered and condemned during the year:-

Tinned meat	18lbs 2 oz.
Other tinned foods	2cwts 49lbs 6 oz.
Fruites	75lbs
Vegetables	5cwts 56lbs
Fish	20lbs
Cheese	18lbs 6 oz.
Ham	105lbs 3 oz.
Tinned milk	3½ pints
Fresh meat	103lbs 2 oz.

ICE CREAM PREMISES

Manufacturing premises - Nil  
number of Retailers - 11

RODENT CONTROL

The Council continue to carry out their obligations under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 and the Rodent Operator is employed part time, being also responsible for the Dolgellau R.D.C. and Barmouth U.D.C.

Number of Premises Inspected

<u>PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS</u>	<u>TYPE OF PROPERTY</u>	
	<u>NON-AGRICULTURAL</u>	<u>AGRICULTURAL</u>
1. Number of properties in district	821	7
2. Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification.	7	
Number infested by (i) Rats	2	
(ii) Mice	5	
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification.	987	7
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	87	Nil
(ii) Mice	52	

4. Were any sewers infested by rats during the year?

YES

WATER SUPPLY

The town's water supply is now completely administered by the Merioneth Water Board.

At present the water delivered to the town from Llyn Cynwch is untreated other than chlorination but the Contract for the construction of a treatment works at Penycelyn will soon be carried by the Water Board.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

No. of premises on Register	26
No. inspected re. cleanliness	26
No. inspected re. sanitary conditions	26
Defects found	12
Defects remedied	12

INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Public Health Act 1936

Inspection re. nuisance	23	Disinfection	6
Drainage	20	Water Supply	56
Sewerage	40	Private Water Supply	1
Public Conveniences	61	Street Cleansing	53
Refuse Collection	61	Piggeries	1
Rivers and Streams	15	Vermineous premises	3
New Buildings etc.	80	Infestation	3
		Re. Building Byelaws	200
		Dangerous Buildings	15

HOUSING

Housing Act 1957. Unfit houses	22
Pub. Improvement Grants	15
Public Health Act 1936 re. defects	30
Part Act 1957	5
Re. Council House Repairs	130

FOOD AND DRUGS

Fried fish shops	4	Bakehouses	15
Greengrocers	21	Grocers	39
Butchers	20	Cafes	30
Ice Cream Retailers	24	Food stalls	-
Dairy	4	Visits to slaughterhouse	210
		Inspections twice annually of Fair Stalls	

OFFICES SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT

No. of premises on the Register	63
No. of visits of all kinds by Inspector to registered premises	63
Detail shops	22
Warehouses	30
Catering establishments	2
Fuel storage depots	6
	3